Opening

Friends entered the Meeting room with songs led by Peter Ford (Multnomah). They centered in silent worship. Presiding Clerk welcomed Friends to the morning sessions.

Nominating Committee

Ted Etter reported they have received some suggestions and offers to volunteer. Two important offers being considered: one person for Epistle Committee and a potential Recording Clerk. Friends were encouraged to speak to members of the Committee as soon as possible if they are led to serve the Yearly Meeting.

Western Friend

Editor Mary Klein of our regional Quaker magazine thanked the Yearly Meeting, as one of three owners/sponsors of this publication –especially during this critical time when we are forced into separation. She reviewed the numerous programs and ministries the magazine and Friends Bulletin Publishing offer us. In the last year the on-line presence of these programs has expanded, including on-line worship opportunities and archives and a library of articles too large for the physical magazine. The web-site has become a venue for internal conversations about Western Quakerism, while the print magazine focusses on general interest subjects and topics that will be useful for newcomers and seekers. Subscribers get access to the digital version of the latest half-year of issues, while anyone can peruse the archives. A collection of memorial minutes that have been submitted since the magazine was digitized is included. Mary welcomes receiving all memorial minutes, including past ones that will fill the collection out.

Western Friends also publishes books, including our book of Faith & Practice. They try to offer books that have a special demand for Friends and, even if a book may not appear profitable, Mary works with authors to facilitate self-publishing to meet a niche need. During the Covid crisis, she also publishes a weekly newsletter and a page of links to on-line Quaker worship.

To facilitate relations among the yearly meetings, there is a current directory of monthly meetings and worship groups for liberal Friends in the Western states.

We heard reports on Western Friend’s board and finances. Friends are urged to subscribe and to make contributions if capable as sales cover only about a third of costs. Meetings can get a discount and support the program annually by sending in a group of subscriptions. Mary invited Friends to join in dialog as the magazine envisions its changing role in these times.
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Barbara Segal, one of our representatives, introduced the organization. She connected us with Amelia Kegan, FCNL lobbyist, in Washington, D.C., who spoke to FCNL’s response to the current movements and the upcoming elections. She contrasted the culture’s focus on “winners”, the rich and powerful, and those who attract the most attention, with our call to help the poor, the “widows and orphans”, and those who are protesting injustice and systemic problems. Her rousing comments brought forth questions and answers and comments about how we must stand up and work with FCNL and those who are demanding an end to racism and exclusion. FCNL is re-evaluating its activities to respond to the changes of the crisis and Friends are invited to go to their Web-site and find out what’s happening and how to get involved. Amelia reported that FCNL’s credibility as an organization based in faith allows staff to deal with a broad variety of legislators and federal offices.

Friends divided into break-out rooms to discuss the concerns raised by Amelia and our response to the Black Lives Matter and other social concerns currently dominating the news.

[Closing]

Say what?]